

## Corps of Engineers continuing flood response and monitoring rivers

Contact: Public Affairs 206-764-3750 or the Information Line for recorded updates at 1-866-596-2635

SEATTLE - The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Seattle District, Reservoir Control Center and Emergency Operations Center remain in 24-hour operation.

Corps flood teams are currently out on the Olympic Peninsula, and in the Nooksack, Snohomish, Puyallup, Skagit, Green, Chehalis and Yakima river basins -- more than 50 flood fighters remain deployed. Crews are expected to remain out through the weekend in the Green, Puyallup, Snohomish and Yakima basins.

Major and widespread flooding throughout the region prompted increases in flood fighting activity beginning Jan.6. The Corps has provided more than 200,000 sandbags to communities in Washington State and has provided \$1.7 million worth of federal assistance thus far.

Work continuing today includes flood fights at the Jeffries Levee in Ellensburg, at Yakima federal levee, and at the Yakima Sewage treatment plant in the Yakima River basin. The team is also monitoring Ellensburg's City Well levee.

Work also continues through today on the Ebey Slough levee repair in the Snohomish basin.

Corps of Engineers pumps are still in Orting, as the city is using them through the weekend. In the Chehalis basin, crews yesterday sandbagged a levee boil at Airport Road levee. The Corps will be working with state and local governments to assess levees as the water recedes. The State of Washington is still using Corps pumps to drain water near Interstate 5 in Fife, Wash.

In the Nooksack basin, the flood team wrapped up work at the River Road Levee yesterday. In the Skagit basin, Corps assistance with highway erosion repair on the South Skagit Highway also concluded Jan. 9. In addition, the Corps finished constructing a berm across Thunder Road to protect the Quileute property. In the Auburn Valley, the Corps will assess levee conditions along the Green River as water recedes.

Public Law 84-99 enables the Corps to assist state and local authorities in flood fight activities and cost share in the repair of flood protection structures. The purpose is to prevent loss of life and minimize property damage associated with severe weather.

The Corps currently is operating dams in the White/Puyallup, Green/Duwamish and Wynoochee basins for flood risk reduction.

Mud Mountain Dam on the White River (which feeds the Puyallup) is releasing 9,600 cfs (cubic feet per second). The purpose of the release is to evacuate stored flood water from the reservoir before another weather event. When flows peaked at the Puyallup River at 41,500 cfs, the Corps was releasing no water. Without operations of Mud Mountain Dam, flows would have been around 70,000 cfs. The Corps reduced flows from 11,700 to 9,700 Jan. 9 after it became clear that flooding was reaching homes previously not impacted at that release level in 2006 and prior years.

After holding back a peak flow of 30,000 cfs to zero on the Green River, the reservoir behind Howard Hanson Dam reached a historic high elevation of 1189.22 feet Jan. 9. The Corps was discharging 7,000 cfs the morning of Jan. 10, controlling discharge to near 12,000 cfs at Auburn.

The Corps also is in control of Wynoochee Dam and is evacuating stored flood water with outflows at 1,300 cfs.

For more information on the Corps, and up-to-date river forecasts, go to [www.nws.usace.army.mil](http://www.nws.usace.army.mil) and click on Rivers and Reservoirs. Lake and river information is available at: <http://www.nwd-wc.usace.army.mil/nws/hh/basins/>

Private citizens seeking sandbags should contact their local government offices.

The National Weather Service issues flood watches and warnings and should be consulted for that information.